

The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

DDI- 42138311
att: ER 83-2977
att: DD 83-3566

20 JUN 1983

Richard G. Stilwell
General, USA (Ret.)
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy)
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Dick,

In response to your letter of 7 June on the 1983 NITs of Current Interest, I present below my views on the manner in which the NIT inputs will be assembled and promulgated this year. However, I would first note that the SIG-I Committee on Priorities, as a collective body representing US policy elements, will have the final word on the content of the NITs document.

25X1

Referring in order to each of your three issues:

- With regard to the number of inputs submitted, let me point out that although the number of topics (questions) has been reduced this year, the new format of the NITs permits policy elements some flexibility in that they can ask several specific sub-questions on each topic or theme. Given such flexibility, I hope that each of the policy elements can limit their total number of topics to five. If, however, a policy element submits more, I will ask them to prioritize their inputs in order of importance so that the top five priority inputs can be included in the initial draft of the new NITs while the remaining ones will be held in abeyance for final consideration and action by the SIG-I Committee.
- As expressed in the "Foreword" to the 1982 NITs document, both the DCI and I view the topics as a forum for policy makers to inform the Intelligence Community of critical needs for information and analysis. Consequently, as last year, there will be no NIT questions submitted by the DCI.
- In the formulation of the 1982 NITs, some inputs were consolidated in an effort to eliminate excessive duplication and to reduce the length of the overall NITs listing. Because the intelligence staff officers who put together the initial list of NITs were concerned about altering the thrust of specific inputs, a draft set of NITs was forwarded to policy elements



SECRET

CL BY Signer
DECL OADR
DERIV FM Multiple

P215

for review and comment. In addition, an IG-I meeting was held last year allowing policy elements a further opportunity to comment on the NITs before submission to the SIG-I for final approval. With regard to the formulation for the 1983 NITs, I am hoping that in the first instance, the new format of the NITs will reduce much of the duplication in inputs that was evident last year. Beyond that, I will suggest the following:

- The IPC Staff assemble two versions of the NITs document for review by policy elements; one that is simply a compilation of inputs, as received, organized by appropriate category; and another that eliminates repetition and organizes the inputs by category.
- The IPC Staff identify, for each topic, which of the policy elements submitted the question.
- The SIG-I Committee on Priorities determine which of the two NITs documents assembled by the IPC Staff is to be disseminated as guidance to the Intelligence Community.

25X1

The procedures outlined above give the SIG-I Committee more control of the format of the end product. I believe this is appropriate given that the NITs document is a product of that body. I feel sure you will find these procedures consistent with the views expressed in your letter.

25X1

25X1

John N. McMahon

SECRET

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee

1 - DCI

1 - DDCI

1 - EXDIR

1 - ER

1 - DDI

1 - ADDI

1 - DDI Registry

2 - IPC Staff Files

DDI/IPCStaff [redacted] (13 Jun 83)

25X1

SECRET